

Bureau of Land Management
Land and Water Conservation Fund FY 2021 Land Acquisition
Proposal Submission Process

- **Background:** The Interior Secretary identified 10 top priorities for the Department of the Interior (DOI). Five of these priorities will guide the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) selections in land acquisitions for the FY2021 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):
 - Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt;
 - Restore trust and be a good neighbor;
 - Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something;
 - Protect our people and the border; and
 - Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.

All LWCF proposed projects must be guided by eligible Secretarial priorities (mentioned above) and:

- 1) Comply with Secretarial Orders 3347, 3356, and 3362;
 - 2) Comply with Secretarial Order 3373 to increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, including opportunities to hunt and fish; and encourage the enjoyment of land and waters managed by the Department of Interior;
 - 3) Comply with Section 205 (b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act which requires identification of acquisition priorities within an approved land use plan; and
 - 4) Purchase of land or interest in land is from a willing seller owner.
- **Selection Criteria:** LWCF project proposals will be evaluated and then ranked according to the following criteria:
 1. Public Access - Provides new or establishes legal public access that substantially increases or improves access to previously inaccessible or difficult-to-access public lands and waters (e.g., rivers and lakes) for hunting and fishing;
 2. Opportunity - Provides substantially added opportunity for a wide variety of recreational uses than at present, and has strong community support for access;
 3. Variety of Access - Provides a variety of recreational access for the public to enjoy (e.g., land based or water based, motorized, boat, bike, equestrian in order to enjoy many types of recreational activities);
 4. Contribution (in-kind, bargain price, transaction assistance) - Includes a funding leverage, is offered as a bargain sale, or has outside assistance with the transaction; and
 5. State Directors' Ranking - Considers the State Director's ranking for acquisition.
 - **Proposal Requirements:** Each submission must include a completed project data sheet (previously called narrative), fact sheet, Land Acquisition Request for Information (LARI), representative map(s), GIS shape files, and digital color photographs. NOTE: New versions of the project data sheet (IM Attachment 3), fact sheet (IM Attachment 4), and LARI (IM Attachment 5) are revised. **Only the new versions will be accepted.** The LARI should be circulated among resource specialists and managers for completion of

their respective sections. These completed documents will be electronically submitted to the Division of Lands, Realty and Cadastral Survey (WO-350) via state-specific folders accessible at the following link:

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- Limits for Timing and Funding: All acquisitions shall be far enough along in the process to be completed within 3 years of receiving an appropriation. Proposals shall not exceed \$5.0 million without prior review of proposal viability by State Office and Washington Office Land Acquisition Leads.”
- Re-submission of unfunded projects:
 - Projects that were previously submitted for funding may be resubmitted if they are not likely to get funded in previously submitted budgets. Call Kathy Lawson, 202-912-7333 for recommendation on re-submitting projects.
 - **All submission materials must be updated to current requirements and must identify that the project was previously submitted for funding.** Re-submitted projects must be updated to confirm parcel ownership, property value and availability.